Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

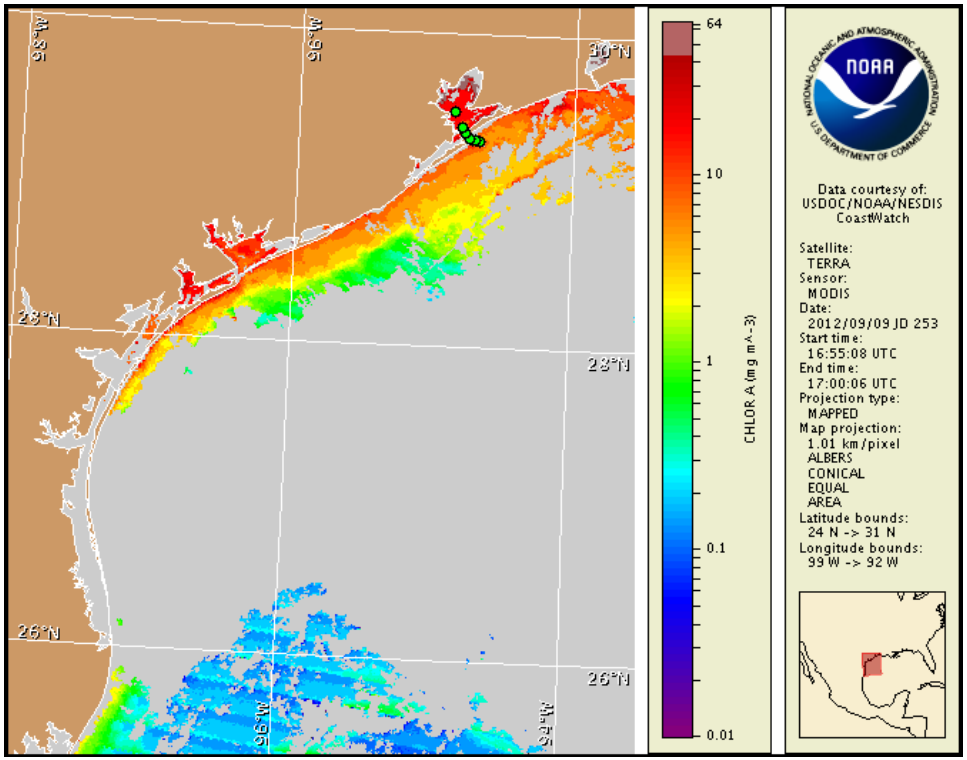
Thursday, 13 September 2012

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, September 10, 2012



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from September 3 to 12 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Detailed sample information can be obtained through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us./landwater/water/environconcerns/hab/redtide/status.phtml

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To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html

Conditions Report

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of Karenia brevis (commonly known as Texas red tide) at the coast in Texas. No impacts are expected alongshore Texas today through Sunday, September 16. For information on area shellfish restrictions, contact the Texas Department of State Health Services.

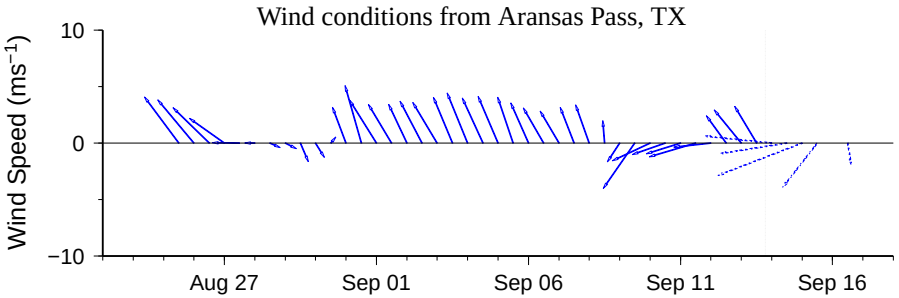
Analysis

Note: As of today, September 13, bulletins will be issued once per week on Mondays due to current harmful algal bloom inactivity. Bulletins will be issued twice per week when conditions warrant.

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of *Karenia brevis* at the coast in Texas. No *K. brevis* was identified from two samples collected alongshore the Padre Island National Seashore (9/10,TPWD). Due to technical difficulties, the most recent MODIS Aqua imagery is presently unavailable. MODIS Terra imagery has been used for bloom analysis and is displayed on this bulletin. Recent MODIS imagery (9/9; shown left) is partially obscured by clouds along- and offshore the Texas coastline, limiting analysis. Elevated chlorophyll (3 to 10 μg/L) is visible stretching along- and offshore from Sabine Pass to the Padre Island National Seashore with patches of very high chlorophyll (11 to >20 μg/L) visible alongshore from Sabine Pass to the Matagorda Peninsula. Elevated chlorophyll is not necessarily indicative of the presence of *K. brevis* and could also be due to the resuspension of benthic chlorophyll and sediments along the coast. In situ sampling is necessary to confirm the presence of *K. brevis*.

Forecast models based on predicted near-surface currents indicate a potential maximum transport of 40 km south from the Port Aransas region from September 10-16.

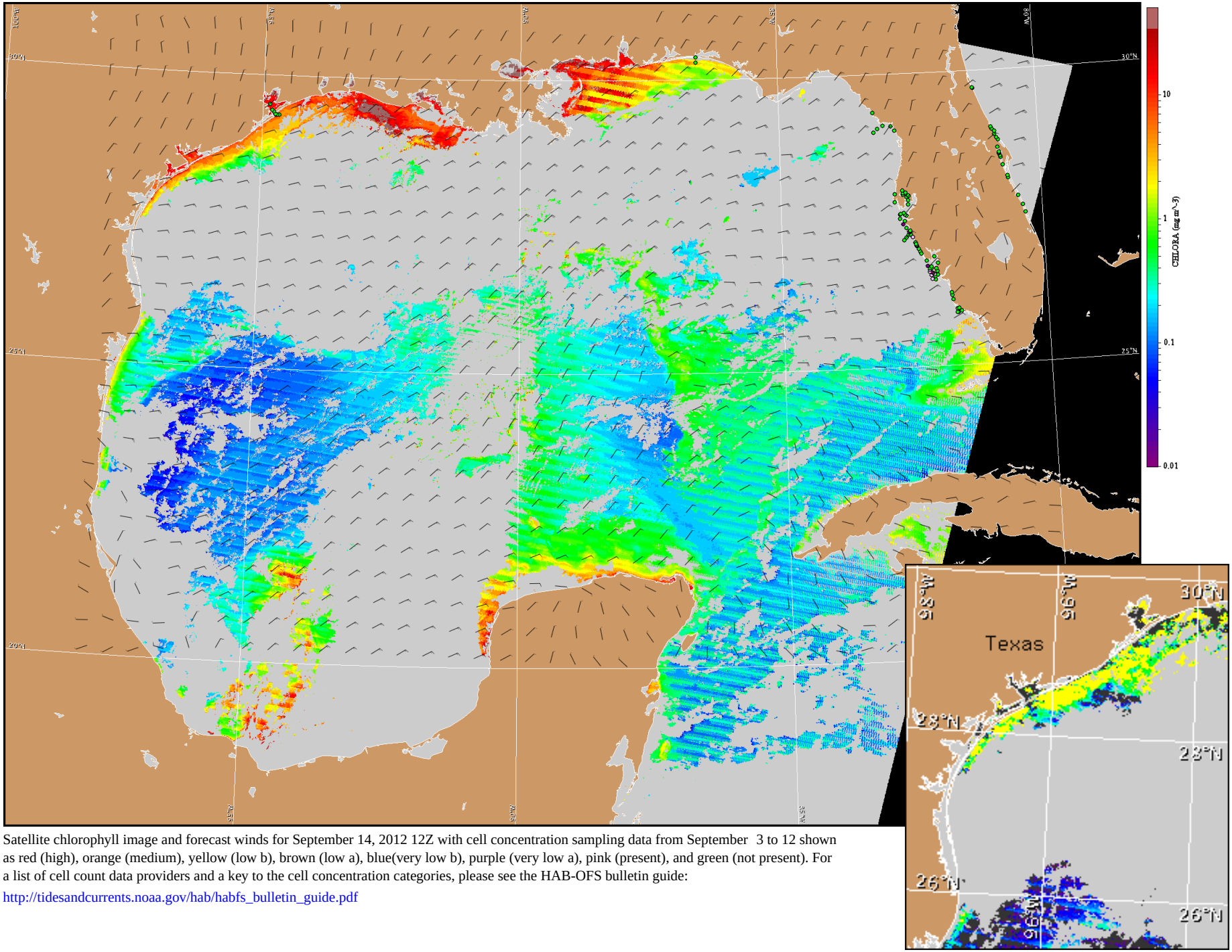
Davis, Kavanaugh



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

Port Aransas: Southeast winds (10-15 kn, 3-8 m/s) becoming east winds this afternoon through Friday. Northeast winds (10-15 kn) Saturday through Sunday, decreasing to 5-10 kn (3-5 m/s) Sunday night.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for September 14, 2012 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from September 3 to 12 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:
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Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).